

ont the base. Beauty, after provision and protection, had time to develop itself; men were at leisure to study it; they had then homes, and were protected from the foe; they delighted in it naturally, and they built as though but to one goddess, and that one, Beauty: witness the glorious temples of the Greeks! We know that the ancients had some deity connected with nearly every relation and action of life; there were gods to propitiate, whether in the senate-house, the theatre, or the home; and, therefore, in all that they built, they would naturally endeavour to render them edifices worthy of divine acceptance and protection: should the goddess of Wisdom dwell in a foolish, ill-built house? Should Jove condescend to thunder from a hovel? Would he sit upon the capital in a dilapidated hut? Would Janus bear with ungainly wooden doors? Would all Olympus consent to meaner habitations than the people they condescended to dwell with and protect? The demand for adornment called up painting and sculpture, and we at once find Architecture their preserver. She spread her wings over the sister arts, and warded off on to herself the cruel blows of Time! She stood ready with open doors for all that was beautiful in either house—the paintings blushed upon her walls, the statues thronged into her courts. Perfect in proportion, symmetry, and grace, she was as a goddess protecting gods. Jove came, and Minerva came, and sat serene in marble under the shelter of her temples, forsaking Olympus for the shades of men. The architect unconsciously built the heaven, the sculptor made the god, and each worshipped himself in his work. Why did they never understand that they must themselves be more gods than their own creations? It may be that they did; but knowing nought better than themselves, preferred to be silent, wiser, according to the world, than Socrates. Still Architecture preserved the rest, and they were at one with her, because they originated in the same principles: had they not so originated they would have disfigured, not adorned, her house.

H. T. BRAITHWAITE.

ROYAL ACADEMY MEDALS.

GENEROUS EMULATION.

It was with much surprise I saw Professor Donaldson's signature to a letter on the above subject, which appeared in your columns of last week, and I think it due to the competitors in general that your readers should be put into possession of the facts of the case, namely, that that portion of the conditions which mentions as of such trifling importance, namely, that the drawings should be made "from actual measurement," is the main difficulty of the undertaking, and that the skill and ability requisite in making a "beautiful set of drawings" is of a very different nature to actually measuring so admittedly difficult a subject as the tower and spire of Bow Church, the only means which we could see of doing which was, by means of proper tacking, being raised in a box from the ground to the principal cornice of the tower, measuring the various details as we ascended, the same process being repeated in the measurement of the greater portion of the spire. Now, I think the "wisdom and justice" of the council will be very apparent when it is known that the said student's drawings were not rejected "because he had not climbed to the top of Bow spire," but because he could not have (comparatively speaking) measured any portion of the structure.

Again, as Mr. Donaldson says, "I am anxious to express my disbelief in the report current in the rooms at the time that the other competitors, fearful of the brilliant talents of their able antagonist, memorialised the Academy to exclude his drawings on the ground of non-compliance with the instructions."—I now take this opportunity of denying distinctly that we acted from any such motive; we were totally unacquainted with the "brilliant talents" of our "able antagonist," having never seen or heard of any drawings executed by him; but, acting from a sense of the duty we

owed, not only to ourselves, but to the students in general, having first consulted one of the council, we wrote, praying an investigation. The council, we presume, feeling the justice of this appeal, excluded the drawings, and no doubt lamented with Mr. Donaldson the want of energy, determination, and spirit which induced the student to fall short of his duty.

HENRY SAXON SNALL.

I AM sorry to have, in my power to dispel the very charitable disbelief expressed in Professor Donaldson's most proper and well-timed letter of last week. It is beyond a doubt that certain of the candidates for the silver medal in architecture did memorialise the council, demanding the exclusion of one of the sets of drawings submitted.

The simple facts of the case (which, as containing a warning to future candidates, I hope you will not refuse to publish) are as follow:—The student whose drawings were set aside, went to Bow Church, and very carefully measured the steeples from the ground to the base of the obelisk; the remainder, the most remarkable feature wherein is the dragon-shaped vase; being inaccessible, he drew from the eye, and according to pre-existing drawings. He subsequently discovered, however, that the other candidates had clubbed together, and erected a scaffold upon this part of the building; but unfortunately he made this discovery too late to enter into any negotiation for the use of such scaffold. He did not, however, put himself to the trouble and expense of erecting another scaffold, but felt assured that, as in previous instances, it would not be expected that the candidates should have measured those portions of the building inaccessible by ordinary means. The drawings were hung in the Royal Academy; but, owing to the memorial to which I have alluded, were taken down again. It is certainly very curious to observe the result of the increased facility supposed to have been gained by the aid of that most humble of architects' assistants, the bricklayers' labourer, contrasted with the case wherein such aid had not been resorted to. The several sets of drawings represented the total height of the tower thus:—

1st set	221 ft. 6 in.
2nd do.	220 6
3rd do.	217 3
4th do.	No total height given.
and 5th do. the rejected set	218 10½

The memorial combination has been so justly characterised by Professor Donaldson, supposing the possibility of its having taken place, that I refrain from offering any further comment upon it; but one thing it were easy for me to show, that the rejected, but nevertheless much honoured, candidate might have avoided the ill-natured cavillation to which he was so subjected, and yet, after all, never have measured the dragon and obelisk.

W. B. COLLING.

PANORAMA OF NIMROUD.

MR. BRIDFORD, assisted by Mr. Selous, has set up at the Panorama in Leicester-square a view of "the throne and glory of the ancient and illustrious kingdom of Assyria," showing the scene of the greatest of modern explorations,—explorations which have justified history and illustrated the truths of religion. At the soirée in Northampton, mentioned last week, Dr. Layard told his audience, that in speaking of the ruins of Babylon or Assyria, they must not picture to themselves temples and monuments such as were to be seen in Italy. Those ruins, on the contrary, consisted of vast mounds of earth, something like the ancient barrows to be found in this country, and some of them were as much as 3,000 yards in length, and occupied many square acres of ground. These vast mounds were literally the heaps to which the prophet Isaiah referred when speaking of the ultimate fate of those cities, which were in his days as flourishing, as great, and as populous as our own London is at present. They must re-

member, he said, that the mounds to which he had referred consisted of vast platforms of earth, beneath which the remains of palaces lay entombed. The mode of construction employed in these edifices accounted for the present state of their ruins. The lower stories of the edifices were built of alabaster, a substance exceedingly well calculated to perpetuate the pictorial representations of their great national events, and the explanatory descriptions with which they were accompanied. The upper part of the buildings was constructed entirely of sun-dried bricks. The consequence was, that when, in the lapse of time, the materials of the upper stories decayed, they eventually fell in, and buried in their debris the imperishable memorials beneath.

Mr. Burford's view, which well illustrates this statement, is very charmingly painted, especially the distance, and will be viewed by all with interest; it scarcely gives that notion, however, of the extent of the excavations which the accounts describe, notwithstanding the remarks we have quoted. In the north-west palace, for example, the excavations disclosed a perfect labyrinth of halls and chambers; by bringing these closer to the spectator a striking point of interest would have been obtained, and a variety given to the view. The removal of the great bull forms an interesting feature: it is on a rude carriage dragged by a large crowd of men precisely similar to representations of the transport of similar monoliths thousands of years ago, still remaining in the tombs in Egypt.

THE IMPROVEMENT OF GLASGOW.

IN the course of Mr. Wilson's paper read at a meeting of the Architectural Institute of Scotland, already mentioned, it was recommended that no ash-pits or dungsteds should be permitted in back courts, and the accumulation of ashes should be removed daily, the same as in other towns. Landlords should be bound to have their stairs well lighted. It was further recommended that baths, washing-houses, and public parks should be established, under the sanction of the authorities, the latter especially, as both securing recreation for the inhabitants and improving the salubrity of the city. A hint was also thrown out that much good would be done by removing fleshers' shops out of the public streets, and that more stringent regulations for such public works as emitted noxious vapours might be devised. All places of public amusement should have fire-proof stairs, and all the egress doors of them should be made to open outwards. In obtaining a Municipal Sanitary Bill, provision should be made for opening up the lanes and wynds in the denser parts of the city, and to look out for, and purchase ground on which houses for the working classes might be built. The Board to be appointed under the Act should be empowered to tax the inhabitants at a rate not heavier than the present court-house tax; and it was not thought that for such a worthy object as the one contemplated, anybody would object to be assessed at 1d. in the pound. As to the drainage of the city, this was viewed as of very great importance. After a minute inspection of various parts of the city, the committee who drew up the paper were of opinion, and they were so adversely, that the drainage was alarmingly deficient. In the case of Glasgow, with a population of nearly 400,000, the idea of discharging within a confined range the sewerage of such a town into the river was most dangerous. If the Clyde was to be used as the great common sewer of the city, it must be under such arrangements as should secure to the inhabitants its salubrity instead of the reverse as at present. The plan proposed to obviate the evil was to form parallel drains to the Clyde, which should run alongside the river for a certain distance, and be discharged at such a place below the town where the tide would fully act.

THE LATE MR. JOHN BECKER. ARCHITECT.—We regret to have to record the death of this gentleman on the 6th. We will give some particulars next week.

* We have received some other letters on the same subject, but have not space for them.